

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper; however, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account Number **06-1448, Reference MSA-008.01**.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A clean copy of those claims that are amended is presented here. Canceled claims are indicated.

1. **(Canceled)**

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Previously amended)** A method of predicting increased risk of sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy, comprising identifying in isolated genomic DNA from a sample previously taken from a diabetic patient a genetic polymorphism pattern comprising a polymorphism selected from the group consisting of: IL-1RN (VNTR) allele 1, IL-1 A (-511) allele 2, and IL-1B (-889) allele 2, wherein the presence of the genetic polymorphism pattern is predictive of an increased risk of sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy.

5. **(Original)** A method according to claim 4, wherein said step for identifying in the DNA a genetic polymorphism pattern for IL-1A, IL-1B and IL-1RN comprises amplification of target DNA sequences with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and at least one PCR primer, wherein the PCR primer is selected from the group consisting of:

5'AAG CTT GTT CTA CCA CCT GAA CTA GGC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1);

5'GTA CCT TCC GAG TAT ACA TT 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 2);
5'TGG CAT TGA TCT GGT TCA TC 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 3);
5'GTT TAG GAA TCT TCC CAC TT 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 4);
5'CTCAGCAACACTCCTAT 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 5);
5'TCCTGGTCTGCAGGTAA 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 6);
5'TGTTCTACCACCTGAACTAGGC 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 7);
5'TTACATATGAGCCTTCCATG 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 8);
5'AAGCTTGTTCTACCACCTGAACTAGGC 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 9); and
5'TTACATATGAGCCTTCCATG 3'	(SEQ ID NO: 10).

6. **(Newly amended)** A method according to claim 5, wherein said step for identifying in the DNA a genetic polymorphism pattern for genes IL-1A, IL-1B and IL-1RN comprises restriction enzyme digestion with restriction enzymes *NcoI*, *AvaI*, and *Bsu36I*.

7. **(Newly amended)** A method according to claim 4, wherein the genetic polymorphism pattern is selected from the group consisting of

- (a) IL-1A(-889)2,2 and IL-1B(-511)2,2;
- (b) IL-1A(-889)1,2 and IL-1B(-511)2,2; or
- (c) IL-1A(-889)2,2 and IL-1B(-511)1,2.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Newly amended)** A method according to claim 5 wherein the genetic polymorphism pattern is selected from the group consisting of

- (a) IL-1A(-889)2,2 and IL-1B(-511)2,2;
- (b) IL-1A(-889)1,2 and IL-1B(-511)2,2; or
- (c) IL-1A(-889)2,2 and IL-1B(-511)1,2

11. **(Canceled)**